

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figure 1 with the attached substitute drawing figure.

Figure 1 has been amended to show the floor with a low coefficient of friction.

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. The specification has been amended to insert headings and to better refer to the drawing figures, and the amendments to the specification also generally find support in paragraph 0014 of corresponding publication 2007/0056885.

A substitute drawing figure has been provided.

Claims 8-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 have been canceled. Claims 8-25 are newly presented. Claims 8-16 generally find support in the original claims and in paragraphs 0002, 0023, 0026 and 0029 of corresponding publication 2007/0056885, as well as in Figure 4. Claims 17-25 generally correspond to claims 8-16 but do not utilize "means" language.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

The Drawings

The drawings have been objected to as not showing every feature specified in the claims, i.e., a floor with a low coefficient of friction. A substitute drawing figure has been provided showing enumerating feature, and the specification has been amended to refer to this feature.

It is accordingly respectfully requested that this objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-7 have been objected to as to format. Claims 1-7 have been canceled and are replaced with new claims 8-25 in proper format.

It is accordingly respectfully requested that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Official Action asserts that the structural limitations of claims 1-7 are not clear. However, claims 1-7 have been canceled and replaced with claims 8-25, which are set forth in language that is clear, definite and has full antecedent basis.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection Over TAYLOR

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by TAYLOR (U.S. Patent 6,397,999). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to a mail sorting device that is illustrated, by way of example, in Figure 4 of the application, which is reproduced below.

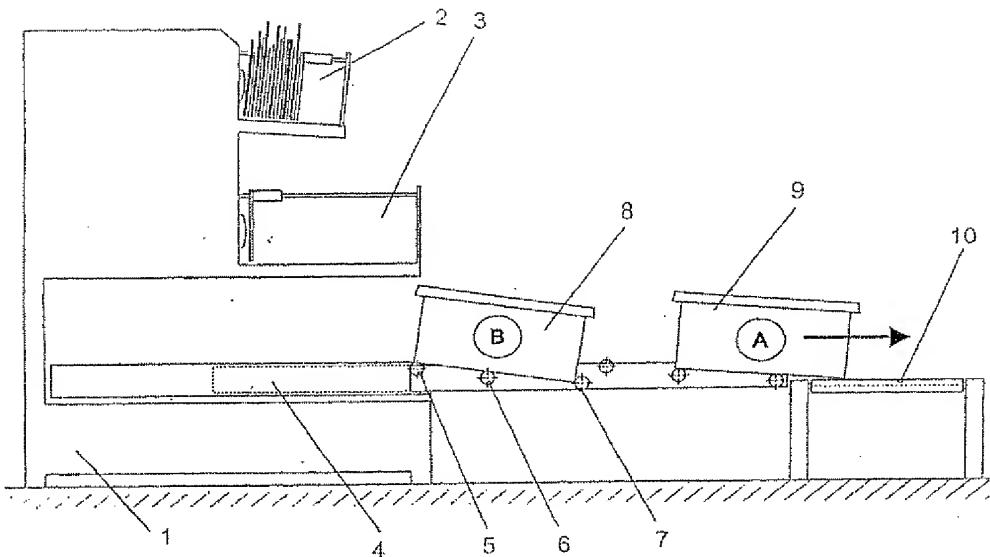


FIG 4

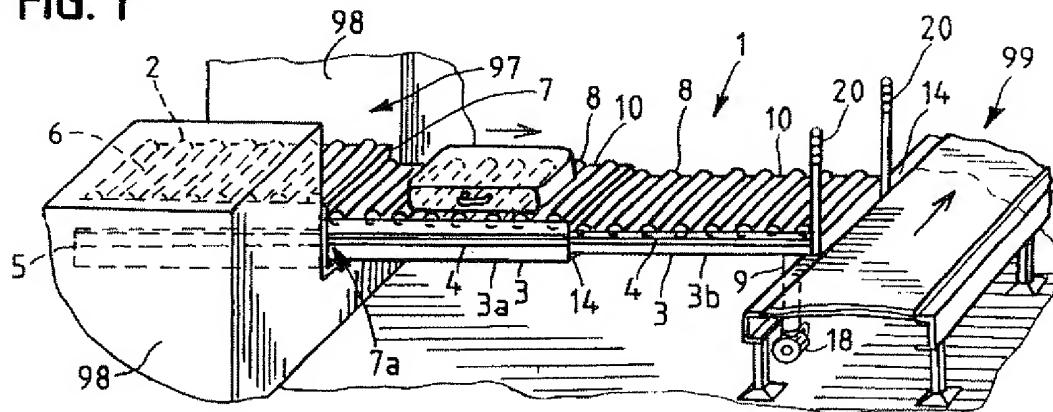
As is described in the specification, the sorting device 1 has two rows, disposed one above the other, of sorting compartments 2,3. For every two sorting compartments 2,3 disposed one above the other, the sorting device 1 has, below said sorting compartments 2,3, a support mechanism 4 on which are located two containers A,B 9,8 one behind the other for accommodating the mail items from the sorting compartments 2,3. The destination addresses to which mail items are statistically sent most frequently are assigned to the lower sorting compartments 3 for ergonomic reasons and the mail items for those destination addresses which do not receive mail items so frequently, i.e., the sorting compartments 2 not needing to be emptied so frequently by the operator, are sorted into the upper sorting compartments 2. If the lower sorting compartment 3 has been

emptied into the container A 9 and the container A 9 is full, the container A 9 is lifted over the roller 7 and pulled onto the roller conveyor track 10.

The above-described aspects of the present invention are reflected in independent claims 8 and 17.

TAYLOR pertains to a baggage receiving device specifically designed for airport passenger luggage handling. The Official Action refers to Figure 1 of TAYLOR, which is reproduced below.

FIG. 1



TAYLOR fails to disclose a sorting device with a means or device for sorting mail items into sorting compartments, such as is set forth in independent claims 8 and 17 of the present invention.

TAYLOR additionally fails to disclose rows of sorting compartments disposed above the extendable support mechanism, such as is set forth in independent claims 8 and 17 of the present invention.

TAYLOR thus fails to disclose each and every element of independent claims 1 and 17 of the present invention. TAYLOR accordingly fails to anticipate independent claims 8 and 17 of the present invention. Claims depending upon independent claims 8 or 17 are patentable over TAYLOR for at least the above reasons.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 24, 2006 and for making an initialed PTO-1449 Form of record in the application.

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

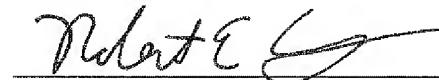
The objections and rejection are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- a terminal disclaimer
- a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration
- a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- a Replacement Sheet for Figure 1 of the drawings
- a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification
- a verified English translation of foreign priority document